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RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 000268

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/21/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [KWBG](#) [AF](#) [PK](#) [QA](#)  
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF STATE RECOMMENDS "PROJECT BY PROJECT"  
BILATERAL COORDINATION OF AID

REF: 08 DOHA 861

Classified By: Ambassador Joseph E. LeBaron, for reasons 1.4 (b, d).

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(C) KEY POINTS  
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-- Ambassador asked Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Al-Mahmoud April 19 for his advice on finding a better way for the U.S. and Qatar to coordinate the provision of aid to third countries, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan.

-- Al-Mahmoud recommended that, in the future, the U.S. approach Qatar bilaterally with project-specific proposals that Qatar could then evaluate on a case-by-case basis.

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(C) COMMENTS  
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-- It is clear that the current system, by which the Embassy passes requests from Washington for assistance to Kosovo, the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and elsewhere does not effectively capitalize on Qatar's potential as an aid donor, including on projects of interest to the U.S.

-- Based on Al-Mahmoud's advice, we recommend exploring with AID, as more senior AID positions are filled, creation of an assistance coordination mechanism through which we would channel all U.S. requests of Qatar for financial assistance and in-kind contributions.

-- One complication on the Qatari side is that responsibility for assistance in Qatar is shared by both the Qatar Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While Minister of State for International Development Khalid Al-Attiyah has told us (reftel) that he will eventually become the focal point for all Qatari assistance -- channeled by the Government or the Qatar Foundation -- we will need for the foreseeable future to open clear and effective channels of communication with both entities.

End Key Points and Comments.

[1](#)1. (C) Ambassador asked Minister of State Ahmed Al-Mahmoud April 19 for his guidance on how best to work with Qatar on securing financial contributions for aid to third countries, underscoring that we "need to find a better way to work together on contributions to third countries."

[1](#)2. (C) Al-Mahmoud made two suggestions. First, the U.S. should approach Qatar bilaterally and seek its cooperation in that way. Second, our proposals should be project specific. Qatar would then evaluate those requests on a project-by-project basis.

[1](#)3. (C) Al-Mahmoud offered two examples of successful

partnership Qatar had undertaken with other countries along these lines. Qatar, working bilaterally with Germany, funded police training in Afghanistan. Again bilaterally and project specific in scope, Qatar worked with Romania to fund school projects, also in Afghanistan.

LeBaron